



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,929	03/12/2004	Masanori Yamashita	OMRNP079	6845

22434 7590 01/27/2006

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP
P.O. BOX 70250
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250

EXAMINER

PHAM, THOMAS K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,929

Applicant(s)

YAMASHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

First Action on the Merits

1. Claims 1-11 of U.S. Application 10/799,929 filed on 03/12/2004 are presented for examination.

Quotations of U.S. Code Title 35

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2121

Priority

6. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 03/04/2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2003-069469 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,587,042 ("Tabata") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,450 ("Iwama").

Regarding claim 1

Tabata teaches a terminal table unit comprising:

- a main body including a control device (see FIG. 1, "main CPU 34"); and
- control device being adapted to receive input data from an input apparatus for controlling an output apparatus and to drive said output apparatus according to said received input data (see Col. 3 lines 33-42) and control device serving to cause said input data from said input apparatus to be stored on said memory medium (see Col. 3 lines 5-17).

Tabata does not specifically teach a memory cassette which includes a memory medium and is detachably attached to said main body (see FIG. 1, "flash memory 17").

However, Iwama teaches a mobile information recording device including a flash memory that is detachably attached to said main body of the device (see FIG. 1, "flash memory 17" and Col. 3 lines 10-34) for the purpose of having a memory storage that can be effectively used, whereby the whole cost can be reduced (see Col. 2 lines 20-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the flash memory of Iwama with the information recorder of Tabata because it would provide for the purpose of having a memory storage that can be effectively used, whereby the whole cost can be reduced.

Since the specification do not define the term "terminal table unit", examiner interprets the information recorder of Tabata is a kind that relates to the "terminal table unit" of applicants.

Regarding claim 2

Iwama teaches main body has a connector and said memory cassette is connected to said main body through said connector (see FIG. 1 shows flash memory 17 is connected to the recorder unit).

Regarding claim 3

Iwama said main body further includes a memory device (see FIG. 1, "memory controller 18b"), said control device being adapted to cause said memory device to periodically store new portions of said input data (see Col. 5 line 51 to Col. 6 line 8).

Regarding claim 4

Iwama teaches memory medium ("Flash memory 17") of said cassette stores input data taken in from said memory device (see Col. 5 lines 36-39).

Regarding claim 5

Iwama teaches input data are a periodic signal and said control device is adapted, when abnormal data are detected in said input data, to use said abnormal data as a trigger and to thereby read out from said memory device and cause to be stored on said memory medium a portion of a

Art Unit: 2121

specified number of periods of said input data including a portion of said input data before said trigger is detected (see Col. 2 lines 27-44).

Regarding claim 6

Tabata teaches wherein said specified number of periods of input data includes one period of said abnormal data and one period of said input data before said trigger is detected (see Col. 2 lines 53-64).

Regarding claim 7

Iwama teaches memory device is adapted to store said input data in units of two periods under a control of said control device (see Col. 3 lines 54-58).

Regarding claim 9

Iwama teaches control device is adapted to monitor the number of times control signal based on said input data is switched on (see Col. 3 lines 58-65).

Regarding claim 10

Iwama teaches control device is adapted to monitor cumulative length of time during which control signal based on said input data is switched on (see Col. 3 lines 54-58).

Regarding claim 11

Tabata teaches memory device further serves to store basic data with specific patterns and said control device further serves to compare said input data with said basic data (see Col. 5 lines 36-62).

Art Unit: 2121

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday - Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to: **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450**. Responses may also be faxed to the **official fax number (571) 273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham
Patent Examiner



January 23, 2006